

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-27 (canceled)

28. (previously presented) A method for controlling the use of at least one personal communications device in a vehicle, the method comprising

at a controller in said vehicle, deriving information relating to the geographic location of said vehicle,

at said controller in said vehicle, deriving information relating to restrictions on the use of personal communications devices in at least one geographic region,

at said controller in said vehicle, determining whether said geographic location of said vehicle bears a predetermined relationship to at least one of said geographic regions,

transmitting a message from said controller in said vehicle to said at least one personal communications device imposing restrictions on use of each said personal communications device while said predetermined relationship exists.

29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said deriving information relating to the geographic location of said vehicle comprises deriving information from a global positioning satellite (GPS) receiver in said vehicle.

30. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said deriving information relating to said regions comprises accessing a database comprising geographical definitions of a plurality of regions and restrictions applicable to personal communications device use in each of said regions.

31. (original) The method of claim 30 wherein said restrictions comprise legal restrictions imposed by a governmental authority.

32. (original) The method of claim 30 wherein said use of a personal communications device is pursuant to an arrangement with a communications carrier, and said restrictions comprise restrictions imposed by a customer of said carrier.

33. (original) The method of claim 32 wherein said customer is a user of said personal communications device.

34. (original) The method of claim 32 wherein said customer is a person having supervisory responsibility for at least one user of said personal communications device.

35. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said plurality of regions comprises all regions in a governmental jurisdiction.

36. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein said determining whether said geographic location of said vehicle bears a predetermined relationship to at least one of said geographic regions comprises determining at least one of said geographic regions that includes said geographic location of said vehicle.

37-40 (canceled)

41. (new) A method for controlling the use of a wireless personal communications device in a vehicle comprising

deriving information relating to the geographic location of said personal communications device,

deriving information relating to restrictions on the in-vehicle use of personal communications devices in each of a plurality of geographic regions,  
determining whether said geographic location of said personal communications device bears a predetermined relationship to at least one of said geographic regions,  
determining whether the personal wireless communications device is being used in a vehicle, and  
determining restrictions on the in-vehicle use of said personal communications device while said predetermined relationship exists.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of determining whether the personal wireless communications device is being used in a vehicle comprises receiving in the device information transmitted from a controller in the vehicle.

43. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said deriving information relating to the geographic location of said personal communications device comprises deriving information from a global positioning satellite (GPS) receiver.

44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein said GPS receiver is included in said personal communications device.

45. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein said GPS receiver is included in said vehicle.

46. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said deriving information relating to said regions comprises accessing a database comprising geographical definitions of a plurality of regions and restrictions applicable to personal communications device use in each of said

regions.

47. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein said restrictions comprise legal restrictions imposed by a governmental authority.

48. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein said use of a personal communications device is pursuant to an arrangement with a communications carrier, and said restrictions comprise restrictions imposed by a customer of said carrier.

49. (new) The method of claim 48 wherein said customer is a user of said personal communications device.

50. (new) The method of claim 48 wherein said customer is a person having supervisory responsibility for at least one user of said personal communications device.

51. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein said restrictions further comprise restrictions imposed by a user or a person having supervisory responsibility for at least one user of said personal communications device.

52. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said plurality of regions comprises all regions in a governmental jurisdiction.

53. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said determining whether said geographic location of said personal communications device bears a predetermined relationship to at least one of said geographic regions comprises determining at least one of said geographic regions that includes said geographic location of said personal communications device.

54. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said determining of restrictions on use of

said personal communications device comprises selecting a predetermined set of restrictions from among those restrictions applicable within respective geographic regions in which said personal communications device is located.

55. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said selecting a predetermined set of restrictions comprises selecting said predetermined set of restrictions subject to at least one condition.

56. (new) The method of claim 55 wherein said at least one condition comprises an exemption from restrictions on use of said personal communications device for originating predetermined classes of communications.

57. (new) The method of claim 56 wherein said predetermined classes of communications comprises emergency communications.

58. (new) The method of claim 56 wherein said at least one condition comprises an exemption from restrictions on use of said personal communications device for receiving predetermined classes of communications.

59. (new) The method of claim 58 wherein said predetermined classes of communications comprises emergency communications.

60. (new) The method of claim 41 wherein said personal communications device comprises a wireless communications device for communicating with at least one fixed-location communications node.

61. (new) The method of claim 60 wherein said at least one fixed-location

communications node comprises a node of a terrestrial communications network, said network having a plurality of communications nodes.

62. (new) The method of claim 61 wherein said deriving information relating to the geographic location of said personal communications device comprises receiving location information from at least one of said communications nodes.

63. (new) The method of claim 62 wherein said fixed-location communications node comprises a short-range transmitter transmitting message information identifying the location of said fixed-location communications node.

64. (new) The method of claim 61 wherein said fixed-location communications node comprises a wireless base station transmitter, and said deriving information relating to restrictions on the use of personal communications devices in each of a plurality of geographic areas comprises receiving message information from said wireless base station relating to restrictions applicable in at least one region proximate said wireless base station.

65. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said receiving said message information from said wireless base station relating to restrictions on use of personal communications devices occurs at said personal communications device, and wherein said deriving information relating to the geographic location of said personal communications device comprises receiving global positioning satellite (GPS) information from a GPS receiver included in said personal communications device.

66. (new) The method of claim 65 further comprising imposing restrictions on use of said personal communications device in response to said determining of restrictions on use of

said personal communications device while said predetermined relationship exists.

67. (new) The method of claim 64 wherein said receiving said message information from said wireless base station occurs at said vehicle, and wherein said deriving information relating to the geographic location of said personal communications device comprises receiving global positioning satellite (GPS) information from a vehicle-based GPS receiver.

68. (new) The method of claim 67 further comprising imposing restrictions on use of said personal communications device in response to said determining of restrictions on use of said personal communications device while said predetermined relationship exists, said imposing being effected by sending a control message from a vehicle-based transmitter to said personal communications device.